

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 7 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 8 therein; Claim 8 has been canceled. In addition, Claim 7 has been amended by replacing “dyes” with --dye compounds--. Some dyes are known to consist of a mixture of compounds rather than a single compound, such as Direct Brown 44, although they are referred to as the singular “dye.” See, for example, the specification at page 2, lines 36-37. Thus, the reason for this amendment is to avoid any confusion since the claimed process is drawn to preparing a composition comprising at least two dye compounds.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend on Claim 7. Claims 16 and 19-21 have been amended to be consistent with Claim 7.

Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-14 have been amended into independent form.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 7, 9 and 12-21 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 7, 10, 11 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 61-296069 (Taniguichi) in view of US 2,022,606 (Smith), is respectfully traversed. All of the presently-pending claims now contain the limitations of Claim 8, not subject to this rejection and indicated as drawn to allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 8, 9 and 12-16. The above-amended claims have been so limited. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

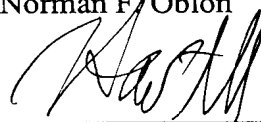
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